
Pro Rege

Volume 37
Number 2 *Fine Arts Issue 2008*

Article 5

December 2008

Mother's Day

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Recommended Citation

Vanden Bosch, Mike (2008) "Mother's Day," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 37: No. 2, 7.
Available at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol37/iss2/5

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Mother's Day

Mike Vanden Bosch

Her right foot peddles the sewing machine into the night,
stitching scraps from old woolen coats and trousers into
scarfs and mittens.

On a frigid day she clips dad's bibbed overalls to wire lines
where in minutes wind freezes the legs into stove pipes
round as rings.

Then, to kill germs, she walks on ice carrying boiling water
to the barn to clean the cream separator after the morning
milking.

When the supper dishes are washed and wiped, she sits,
fingers pushing needles, crocheting rainbow doilies to wash
away the day

while Dad, by the light of a lone gas lamp, reads to her
another chapter from *Tales from the Catacombs* to open
her heart to God.